

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise to ask you to place LB 273 on General File notwithstanding the action of the committee. This is a new speech for me on the floor. In five sessions I've never asked this. I am asking now. I am asking because I think it is appropriate and I think it is timely. We do have one new field house that needs a name. I would hope that we don't have another one down the line when we have somebody else that wants to give it a name. Since we do have one that needs a name at this point in time, in the area of sports I think that the name that comes to all of our minds is Bob Devaney. It probably would have been more timely had we built the complex ten years down the road. It would have been more timely had Bob Devaney retired. It would have been more timely perhaps if he would have terminated. However, none of those circumstances exist. I went before the Government Committee and I presented that. The bill that I presented opened the situation completely up in terms of naming buildings. That was an error in judgement on my part and I want to let you know that with all degree of humility I admit that. One a session is not bad. I do have an amendment, and I've talked to Senator Kelly about that, that would simply limit the name to be known as the Robert S. Devaney Sports Complex. The issues are clear. You know Bob Devaney. This is not the time to debate the bill. I'm not going to make any other comments other than to ask you to raise the bill for General File debate. I do not care to debate the bill now because the purpose of putting it on the board is to debate it then. So I'm going to end my comments with that.

PRESIDENT: Senator Keith Boughn.

SENATOR BOUGHN: I go on record favoring LB 273 with regard to some information with regard to Bob Devaney. Bob Devaney started coaching in Nebraska in 1962, retired at the end of his eleventh year in 1972. The size of the stadium, during his time, increased from 31,000 to 76,000. His lifetime record is 136 wins, 30 losses, 7 ties, for a percent record of 806 percent. Devaney led the nation at the time of his retirement. At Nebraska he won 101, lost 20, tied 2 for a winning percentage of 829. He took Nebraska to nine bowl games in that eleven year period. As you recall the first one, the Gotham Bowl in about 1962. He won eight Big 8 Titles. Devaney had National Champions in 1970 and '71. Seven of his eleven years at Nebraska he ranked in the top ten. Devaney produced 22 All American players at Nebraska, 72 All Big 8 players. Eleven consecutive winning seasons. Under Devaney Nebraska acquired a new track, new office building, new sports center. He had a tremendous impact on the expansion. During the eleven year period the football program grew from \$750,000 to over \$4 million. The Athletic Department of the University of Nebraska increased from \$1,110,000 to \$4,740,000. He stressed the spiritual rebirth of the state created by Devaney in bringing together all of the people of the State of Nebraska. Previous to Devaney, Bill Jennings had said "Nebraska will never be anything". Devaney, with his enthusiasm and winning air, proved Nebraska could be something and it is something. We are somebody. I say with regard to LB 273, as we say in Latin, "octa non verba", "action not words".

PRESIDENT: Senator Rasmussen.